

In the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract with the amended marked up version.

The present invention provides a process for selectively converting dihydroxy-or polyhydroxy alcohols into carbonyl compounds ~~using~~ which process comprises the step of oxidizing the dihydroxy-or polyhydroxy alcohols with dioxygen (O₂) as oxidant in the presence of a catalytic system comprising (1) a copper salt, a copper salt containing a heterocyclic ligand or a copper complex salt, and (2) a base.